



PRESS RELEASE

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WIRELESS HACKER PLEADS GUILTY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Matthew R. Schuster, Wausau, Wisconsin, 5/31/75, pled guilty Friday afternoon in U.S. District Court in Madison to unlawfully accessing a protected computer network, specifically, the wireless internet network of Central Wisconsin Wireless Internet Services (CWWIS), an Internet Service Provider of Wausau, Wisconsin.

Schuster was a former employee of Alpha Computer Services, a Wausau company that provided technical support to CWWIS. In May 2003, Schuster was fired from Alpha Computer Services and his internet access through CWWIS was cut off. Schuster exploited his knowledge of the CWWIS wireless network to gain unauthorized access to their network and to the internet. Schuster's intrusions onto the CWWIS network disrupted the internet use of CWWIS's legitimate paying customers and caused more than \$5,000 in damage. CWWIS has since improved their security protocols.

Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for July 28, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. Schuster faces a maximum of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The charges against Schuster were the result of a joint effort by the Wausau Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Timothy O'Shea and Paul Connell.

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